

REAP Conservation Education Program 2007 Grants



A total of 13 conservation education grants were awarded for the May 2007 grant round, and eight for the November grant round, with awards totaling \$321,000.¹ An approximate \$875,562 was leveraged through in cash and in-kind matches.

Perpetuate a Good Idea Grants

KinderNature Outreach Program--\$5,000

Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County (REAP CEP #08-01)

Contact: Diana Pritts, Okoboji

712-362-7286; spritts@msn.com

Project funded: May 2007

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

This program will expand on an earlier KinderNature program funded by REAP CEP. It will take the program on the road to 12 preschools and daycare centers in Dickinson County. The programs will be presented so teachers and daycare providers gain knowledge about the KinderNature website and how that information can be worked into programming year-around.

Extending Environmental Education to the Home Schooled Child—

Indian Creek to Ida County--\$5,000

Ida County Conservation Board (REAP CEP #08-03)

Contact: Rhett Leonard; Steve Hummel

712-364-3300; idaccb@frontiernet.net

Project funded: May 2007

This project is designed to introduce the environmental education curriculum developed by Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids (funded May 2003 and 2004) to the Ida Grove Home Schooling Group.

Park Packs--\$1,680

Linn County Conservation Board (REAP CEP #08-02)

Contact: Jenny Corbett, Cedar Rapids

319-892-6485; jenny.corbett@linncounty.org

Project funded: May 2007

¹ The CEP Board contracted with the University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education for \$30,000 to monitor grants and assist grantees.

Click here to review the project's promotional brochure.

[Click here to review the project's Check-Out Form.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

[Click here to view the project's final report summary.](#)

Linn County Conservation Board will replicate the Park Packs program (funded June 2003). The activity packs will provide families, scout groups and other educational organizations the opportunity to investigate the wonders of nature around them.

Using Technology to Extend KinderNature Outreach Across Iowa--\$1,937

Iowa Public Television (REAP CEP #08-14)

Contact: Abby Brown, Johnston

515-242-4181; abby@iptv.org

Project funded: November 2007

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

This project involves the production and delivery of educational professional development sessions statewide over the Iowa Communications Network videoconferencing system. Content themes will be KinderNature: Woodchuck Day; KinderNature: Nature's Camouflage; and KinderNature: Earth Day is Every Day.

Developing Resource Binders to Assist Volunteer Fire Departments with Prescribed

Fire--\$5,000

Agren, Inc. (REAP CEP #08-15)

Contact: Stan Buman, Carroll

712-792-6248; stan@agren-inc.com

Project funded: November 2007

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

[Click here to review the Prescribed Fire Notebook for Volunteer Fire Departments.](#)

Agren, Inc. will modify existing prescribed fire booklets for use with firefighters in the Loess Hills of western Iowa and the Oak Savanna region of south-central Iowa. Sixty binders will be distributed.

Growing Futures--\$5,000

Trees Forever (REAP CEP #08-16)

Contact: Pam Helfer, Marion

319-373-0650; phelfer@treesforever.org

Project funded: November 2007

Trees Forever will engage at-risk youth in hands-on environmental projects. In addition, Trees Forever will help youth explore career paths they might not otherwise have considered and help them learn to participate in their communities in positive ways.

Loess Hills Prairie Seminar--\$3,450

Northwest Area Education Agency (REAP CEP #08-17)

Contact: Dianne Blankenship, Sioux City
712-255-3447; bennaid@hotmail.com
Project funded: November 2007

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

Northwest AEA, along with the Monona County Conservation Board, the Iowa DNR, and the West Monona High School, will sponsor a prairie seminar May 30, 31 and June 1, 2008. People of all ages and walks of life serve as facilitators and presenters at this multi- and inter-disciplinary outdoor environmental education seminar.

REAP CEP Grants

Learning Environmental Action Program (LEAP)--\$16,212
Blank Park Zoo Foundation (REAP CEP #8-21)
Contact: Anne Shimerdla, Des Moines
515-323-8373; amshimerdla@blankparkzoo.org
Project funded: November 2007

Blank Park Zoo's LEAP will create a conservation education curriculum to serve students in Des Moines area Boys & Girls Clubs after-school programs. LEAP will also provide professional development training for Iowa elementary and middle-school teachers. Students will help to design and create interpretive wetlands activities at the zoo that will impact over 20,000 Iowa students and teachers, as well as other zoo visitors.

Rivers to the Sea: Flow of Life--\$25,610
Dubuque County Historical Society (REAP CEP #08-10)
Contact: JerryENZler, Dubuque
563-557-9545; jenzler@rivermuseum.com
Project funded: May 2007

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium will create a conservation curriculum to reach 12,000 students in the first year alone. The program will be available to nature centers, museums, teachers and other educators throughout the state. In addition, the museum will host two conferences (one for teachers and one for informal educators) as part of the dissemination program.

Salute to the Songbirds Exhibit--\$53,250
Friends of Hartman Reserve (REAP CEP #08-07)
Contact: Anne Duncan; Cedar Falls
319-277-2187; anne_hrnc@yahoo.com
Project funded: May 2007

Hartman Reserve Nature Center will bring the traveling exhibit, *A Salute to Songbirds*, to Iowa from the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Sacramento, California (see www.effieyeaw.org). The exhibit will educate, motivate, enlighten and inform the public about the plight of migratory songbirds. HRNC will oversee the exhibit's three-year site itinerary and provide each nature center with training on how to use the exhibit.

Project WET Workshops--\$12,284
Iowa Academy of Science (REAP CEP #08-20)

Contact: Marcy Seavey; Cedar Falls
319-273-7486; seavey@uni.edu

Project funded: November 2007

[Click here to review the project's final report summary.](#)

[Click here to review the project's evaluation summary.](#)

The Iowa Academy of Science will provide environmental education workshops for 180 pre-service educators using Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Pre-service teachers will learn about Iowa's water resources and issues while experiencing activities developed with sound EE methods.

Winter Solstice 2008: Plug into Environmental Education--\$15,955.50
Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (REAP CEP #08-13)

Contact: Gail Barels, Marion
319-848-7019; gail.barels@linncounty.org

Project funded: May 2007

[Click here for conference registration information.](#)

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

The 2008 Winter Solstice will focus on issues such as alternative energy, soaring gas prices, global warming and the human disconnect from the natural world. The goal will be to give teachers, pre-service educators, university educators, naturalists and natural resource professionals the strategies and resources needed for incorporating these issues into their work. The workshop will be held at Camp Io-Dis-E-C near Solon, Iowa the week-end of January 25.

Instilling a Commitment to Iowa's Natural Resources in Young Women--\$20,500
Iowa Department of Natural Resources (REAP CEP #08-09)

Contact: Jane Mild; Des Moines
515-242-6004; jane.mild@dnr.state.ia.us

Project funded: May 2007

Project organizers of Outdoor Journey for Girls will expand the number of camps to include one in eastern Iowa, develop a new camp for women and girls, and expand recruiting efforts to encourage participation from urban areas and minority communities.

Community Leaders Enhancing Area Rivers (CLEAR) Mini-Grant Program--\$22,500

Iowa Department of Natural Resources-Watershed Monitoring & Assessment
(REAP CEP #08-08)

Contact: Brandon Harland, Des Moines
515-281-5918; Brandon.harland@dnr.state.ia.us

Project funded: May 2007

The CEP grant will fund 18 \$1,000 mini-grants to Iowa communities to help recycle river trash and educate the public about water quality. This project is a follow-up to one started in 2005 where 15 mini-grants were given to Iowa communities for the same purpose.

Watchable Wildlife Education Program--\$15,515

Iowa Lakes Resource Conservation & Development (REAP CEP #08-05)

Contact: Charlene Elyea, Spencer

712-295-7200; occb@iowatelecom.net

Project funded: May 2007

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

In a 13 county region of Northwest Iowa there are over 480 state, county and city parks and recreational areas. The vast majority of Iowa residents do not realize these sites exist. The project's mission is to promote and create environmental education opportunities using these conservation areas, enticing residents, schools, colleges, visitors and other groups to explore Iowa's natural resources. By creating interactive media presentations that can be viewed on websites or downloaded onto iPod type devices, new educational opportunities will arise. The project will create educational audio and video presentations for several Northwest Iowa wildlife viewing areas as a prototype. From this prototype, an action plan will be developed that can be expanded to the entire 13 county region.

Anti-Litter/Illegal Dumping Education Pilot Project of Iowa Law Enforcement & Legal Officials--\$17,554

Keep Iowa Beautiful (REAP CEP #08-12)

Contact: Gerald F. Schnepf, Des Moines

515-323-6507; gschnepf@keepiowabeautiful.com

Project funded: May 2007

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

Keep Iowa Beautiful™ will expand its partnership with key law enforcement and legal organizations in Iowa to educate their members and employees on litter and illegal dumping prevention programs, enforcement regulations and processes. This 17-month educational outreach pilot program will provide targeted training and field tools for officials in three locations (Council Bluffs/Pottawattamie Co., Dubuque/Dubuque Co. and Boone Co.).

“Ask the Naturalist” Podcasts

Polk County Conservation (PCC) (REAP CEP #08-19)

Contact: Patrice Petersen-Keys, Granger

515-323-5359; ppeters@co.polk.ia.us

Project funded: November 2007

Thirty-six educational podcasts will be developed for listeners to learn about the natural history of PCC Parks and Recreation Areas. They will also educate about wildlife and

conservation issues that affect the entire state and will give listeners ideas on creating a more environmentally healthy community.

Pay it Forward: Educating Educators about Waste To Reap Citizenry Skills in Students--\$24,686

**University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education
(REAP CEP #08-06)**

**Contact: Susan Salterberg, Cedar Falls
319-337-4816; salterberg@uni.edu**

Project funded: May 2007

[Click here](#) to view the project's Waste Reduction teacher notebook, which includes lesson plan links and information.

[Click here to view the project's midterm report.](#)

UNI CEEE will conduct a two-year interdisciplinary initiative that will reach an estimated 13,000 students. The project staff will introduce conservation education lesson plans to 600-700 K-12 educators through conferences and meetings. Educators will be introduced to one to three lesson plans, and most will receive free classroom-ready conservation education resources. Staff will also offer two *Waste Reduction: Addressing the Overlooked "R"* graduate courses for 60-70 teachers (30-35 teachers/course).

Prairies in Progress--\$26,117

**University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education
(REAP CEP #08-11)**

**Contact: Carl Bollwinkel, Cedar Falls
319-273-3217; bollwinkel@uni.edu**

Project funded: May 2007

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's rubric.](#)

Environmental Issues Instruction (eii) programs, with the theme Iowa's Roadside Prairies, were funded by a REAP-CEP (May '06) and Living Roadway Trust Fund (Oct. '06) partnership. During discussions at the update sessions, teachers requested an additional workshop to increase knowledge and skill of prairie establishment and maintenance. To meet this need, eii is holding a one-credit hour workshop. Twenty-six of the teachers enrolled in the current Iowa's Roadside Prairies workshops wish to enroll in this workshop. The intent is to enhance and expand the teachers' knowledge and appreciation of prairie development, maintenance and management.

Prairies in Progress--\$14,965

**University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education
(REAP CEP #08-18)**

**Contact: Carl Bollwinkel, Cedar Falls
319-273-3217; bollwinkel@uni.edu**

Project funded: November 2007

Prairies in Progress will provide additional training in prairie development, maintenance and management to teachers in the 2008 Environmental Issues Instruction (eii) programs.

Service-Learning: Moving Environmental Issues Beyond the Classroom—\$10,695
University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education
(REAP CEP #08-04)

Contact: Susan Salterberg, Cedar Falls
319-337-4816; salterberg@uni.edu

Project Funded: May 2007

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

[Click here to see a photo of the project.](#)

UNI CEEE will conduct a course for K-12 teachers with a goal to give 44 teachers and 880 students hands-on involvement with environmental issues within their communities. The graduate credit course, titled *Service-Learning: Moving Environmental Issues Beyond the Classroom*, requires teachers and their students coordinate environmental projects where they are of service to their school and community.